

The Chennai Call For Action

Addressing the Urgent Need for Prevention and Control of Diabetes and Related Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases.

The Diabetes Summit for South East Asia Region was organised through a collaborative effort of the World Diabetes Foundation, the World Health Organization Regional Office for South-East Asia (WHO SEARO), the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the World Bank, at Chennai India between 28th and 30th November 2008.

The Summit was attended by multiple stakeholders from the region and addressed by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare of the Republic of India Dr. Anbumani Ramdoss and the Hon'ble Minister for Healthcare and Nutrition, Leader of the House in the Parliament of Sri Lanka and Chairman of the Executive Board of the WHO, Sri Nimal Sripala De' Silva, the Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia Region Dr. Samlee Plianbangchang, the President of the International Diabetes Federation, Prof. Martin Silink, the Chairman of the World Diabetes Foundation Prof. Pierre Lefèbvre and the Senior Public Health Specialist of the South Asia Human Development Unit of the World Bank, Washington, Dr. Michael Engelgau. The address of the Assistant Director General, Non-communicable diseases and Mental Health, WHO Geneva, Dr. Ala Alwan was presented in his absence by Dr. Jerzy Leowski, Regional Advisor, Non-communicable diseases at the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia.

The participants recall:

- The UN Resolution 61/225 titled World Diabetes Day, passed unanimously in December 2006 at the 83rd plenary session of the United Nations General Assembly.
- The resolutions of the World Health Assembly (WHA 53.17; WHA 56.1, WHA 57.17; WHA 60.23 and WHA 61.14); and
- The resolutions SEA/RC52/R7, SEA/RC53/R10 and SEA RC60/R4 of the Regional Committee for the WHO South-East Asia Region relating to prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCD).

The participants recognise that:

- Diabetes and several related chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are major public health challenges for the region
- If appropriate public health action is not initiated, disability and deaths from heart disease, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases will continue to grow and also occur prematurely,



WORLD DIABETES FOUNDATION



WORLD BANK GROUP



International Diabetes Federation



World Health Organization
Regional Office for South-East Asia

- This trend poses a threat to the social and economic development of already resource-constrained countries in the region.

The participants recommend urgent action to address and mitigate this threat through the following measures:

- Strengthen and adjust health systems to address the prevention and care of chronic NCDs at the primary health care level. The participants recommend that prevention and control of diabetes and arterial hypertension offer a model for initiating such activities.
- Develop and implement culturally appropriate programmes for education and awareness-raising to the common risk factors for NCDs; as well as programmes to reduce these risks through healthy diets, increased physical activity, smoking cessation and avoidance of harmful use of alcohol.
- Promote “life cycle” and “life style” approach for prevention of diabetes and related NCDs to accrue multigenerational benefits of the interventions.
- Strengthen surveillance systems to track and monitor the health and economic burdens of NCDs and their risk factors.
- Recognise that survival and optimum development of children with type 1 diabetes is dependent on daily injection(s) of insulin. Creating access to uninterrupted supply of insulin is therefore not merely a matter of making a treatment available, but tantamount to the child's basic human right to live.
- Facilitate the creation of an essential drug list for rational and optimum care of common NCDs at the primary health care level and ensure availability and distribution of these medicines at all times.
- Endorse and support a call for a UN General Assembly special session to discuss and include chronic non-communicable diseases into the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the creation of a Global Fund for Health covering both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

For further information please contact:

World Diabetes Foundation

Lottenborgvej 24 Phone +45 44 43 17 09
 2800 Kgs. Lyngby Fax +45 44 44 47 52
 Denmark E-Mail: contact@worlddiabetesfoundation.org



WORLD **DIABETES** FOUNDATION



WORLD BANK GROUP



International Diabetes Federation

